

University of Mississippi

eGrove

---

Correspondence

Civil War Collection

---

3-9-1863

## Charles Roberts to Maggie Roberts (9 March 1863)

Charles Roberts

Follow this and additional works at: [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/ciwar\\_corresp](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/ciwar_corresp)



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Roberts, Charles, "Charles Roberts to Maggie Roberts (9 March 1863)" (1863). *Correspondence*. 727.  
[https://egrove.olemiss.edu/ciwar\\_corresp/727](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/ciwar_corresp/727)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Civil War Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact [egrove@olemiss.edu](mailto:egrove@olemiss.edu).

On picket, Cumberland Parish, Church-  
mch 9th 1863.

My very dear wife,

It must be somewhat over a week since I last wrote you. A combination of circumstances is the cause of my tardiness. In the first place for four or five days I was seriously indisposed with an attack of flux which I was afraid was going to give me considerable trouble, but a few strong doses of medicine and a change of diet succeeded in checking it and last Friday I was again fit for duty. You would be astonished at the prices I paid for a few luxuries, or so considered by a soldier, in order to have something different from this abominable yellow corn meal and mep. beef. I paid for a pound of sugar, one dollar for half a dozen eggs and other things in proportion. I don't know where this spirit of exorbitance is going to stop; it is not confined to any particular class or locality. The farmer wants an exorbitant price for what he has to sell and the soldier that is fortunate to procure anything that is in demand wants double what he paid for it. As for the sutlers and store keepers that follow an army, they have no conscience at all.

On Friday, a wet and dismal day, we were aroused from the usual dull routine of camp by heavy cannonading along the whole of our advanced lines. Towards evening we advanced with our two pieces to the front with the expectation of a sharp skirmish. The enemy



were advancing on forced the whole length of our lines and  
on the right and left they <sup>now</sup> having a right sharp fight  
of it. We had Cavalry in front of us and as soon as they  
were driven in, our had order to commence. They advanced  
some two or three miles before night but did not come  
near enough for us to part in the fight. At dark we  
returned to the church, our order to be in position the  
next morning at daybreak and hold our position at  
all hazards and that night a brigade was sent forward  
from Shelbyville to be within supporting distance. The  
next day we remained in position until Evening, but  
the Yankees changed their minds and during the  
day fell back to their original position. There is no doubt  
their original intention was to advance their lines and it  
is generally supposed they changed if program was in  
consequence of a dash made by Van Dorn last Wed-  
nesday near Franklin and capturing a whole Brigade  
amounting to twenty three hundred men. This in all  
probability made them fall back for fear he may get  
in the rear of their advanced and occasion some trouble.  
There will be no general engagement <sup>here</sup> because the main  
portion of the army has fallen back to Tullahoma, but  
we are going to have a sharp fight where the Yankees  
advanced and the rear guard, which is one Brigade, will  
probably skirmish with the enemy all the way to  
Tullahoma. We may possibly fall back in the night.



which would be very acceptable, for it would save us the annoyance of a running fight, which is anything but pleasant and exceedingly fatiguing.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March I was made Corporal of Company. The principal advantage arising from it, is that I am exempted from detail work and standing guard. I have to mount and relieve the guard about once a week which keeps me up all night but I am not necessarily exposed to the weather the same as if I was standing guard. I also have to keep the ammunition for our piece in good order and serve it out during action.

Mr. Doyle has not yet returned and I am out of patience waiting for him. It is now over a month since the date of your last letter and I am becoming very anxious to hear from him. Can't you arranged some way my dear to let me hear from you a little oftener. It appears almost an age between your letters and if you have a bulky mail from Africa you may certainly let me hear from you oftener. It does me so much good to hear from you and makes me feel better satisfied with my duties. Whereas when I don't hear from you for so long a time I become uneasy and anxious and everything looks dark and gloomy. Do my darling write every opportunity, if only a few lines for I can assure you it will be fully appreciated.



If this was a Roman Catholic Church I think they would  
have <sup>to</sup> sprinkled holy water over and about the building  
several times before it would be considered purified.  
The other night whilst disposing of my blankets, for I  
felt like a man combated, I was amused at the scene  
before me. To my right sat Sgt Penn, gnawing  
a beef bone and occasionally varying the amusement  
by taking a bite from a quarter section of corn bread.  
In front of me a party of four playing Euchre; to the  
right two playing poker and three two or three smoking  
and talking. Over the way a small crowd attracted by  
the fiddlers who is scratching some real backwoods tunes  
and in a corner near the pulpit one of the Company  
disposing of some fuses by auction. You may judge  
what a great combination of sounds it made.

I am going to send this letter by Mr. Grandberry who  
has promised to substitute and is going home to Sackville.

Kiss my little darlings for papa and I live to see the morning  
much tho for you made many kisses and  
but darling wife of  
from your devoted husband

Wm. Roberts

Give my kind regards to  
the Doctor